

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268718

C O R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 6 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: GENERAL SPINOLA PLANS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT GENERAL SPINOLA IS NOW IN PARIS AND PLANS TO VISIT THE U.S. (NEW YORK, BOSTON, WASHINGTON) LATER THIS MONTH. HIS WASHINGTON VISIT IS SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY FOR NOVEMBER 17-19 AND WILL INCLUDE A NEWSMAKER BREAKFAST, AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, A MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF, AND AN INTERVIEW WITH TAD SZULC. IN NEW YORK, SPINOLA PLANS TO ADDRESS THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AND THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS ON HIS
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SCHEDULE BUT ASSUME THAT HE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

TO OBTAIN PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. WE PERSUADED THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOT TO INVITE SPINOLA TO ADDRESS IT AND HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ASSURE THAT SPINOLA IS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED BY ANYONE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF DOES NOT AGREE WITH OUR ASSESSMENT THAT, IN LISBON, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES IN THE USG IS LIKELY TO BE LOST AND THAT A SPINOLA MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE STAFF WOULD PLAY RPght INTO THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE ULTRA-LEFTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGING THAT SPINOLA HAS BEEN RECEIVING WESTERN SUPPORT

STAFF MEMBER (RITCH) PLANS MEET HIM. WE CAN'T RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT INDIVIDUAL SENATORS AND/OR CONGRESSMEN MAY ALSO SEE SPINOLA DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER EFFORTS TO RESTRICT

SPINOLA'S CONTACTS IN THE US WOULD NOT ONLY FAIL BUT WOULD PROBABLY DRAW ADEED ATTENTION TO HIS PRESENCE HERE.

4. FOR LISBON. IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THE SPINOLA VISIT, YOU SHOULD INFORM MELO ANTUNES AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS (INCLUDING SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO) OF SPINOLA'S PLANS AND OUR REACTION TO THEM (ABOVE). YOU MAY POINT OUT IN PARTICULAR THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOT MEET WITH HIM AND REMIND PORTUGUESE BOTH OF THE OPEN NATURE OF US SOCIETY AND SPINOLA'S PREVIOUS VISITS TO PARIS AND HIS PRESS INTERVIEWS THERE. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR THEMIDO. KISSINGER

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